

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-12

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VIENNA FOR USEWTD0

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, CZ

SUBJ: PROPOSED APRIL TECHNICAL SALES SEMINAR ON TEXTILE
MACHINERY

REF: (A) PRAGUE 2251, (B) USDOC 12118 (NOTAL)

1. E/C COUNSELOR CALLED ON INVESTA (FTO) OFFICIALS
(DEPUTY GENERAL DIRECTOR JOSEF HOLECEK AND SUBDIRECTOR
COMMERCIAL ING. JIRI VEDRA) AUG 9 TO DISCUSS PROPOSED TSS.
BOTH KNOW U.S. TEXTILE SCENE VERY WELL AND WERE RECEPTIVE
TO SEMINAR IF IT IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO MEET CZECHO-
SLOVAK INTERESTS. THEY SAID INVESTA MIGHT BE WILLING TO
SPONSOR TSS ONCE THEY KNOW MORE ABOUT IT. APRIL, 1977
TIMING POSES NO PROBLEMS FOR INVESTA.

2. THEY MENTIONED SPECIAL INTEREST IN MACHINERY FOR
FOLLOWING SECTORS OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY:
(A) CARPETS: DIRECT INJECTION DYING EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS
ELECTRONICALLY CONTROLLED PRINTING MACHINERY CALLED
MILLITRON DEVELOPED BY DEREK-MILLIKAN; LEESONA
EXTRUDERS FOR PRODUCING POLYPROPYLENE BANDS FOR
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CARPET BACKING; OTHER CARPET MACHINERY.

(B) GLASS FIBERS: MACHINERY FOR DRAPERIES AND OTHER ITEMS;
(C) UPHOLSTERY; AND
(D) READY-MADE CLOTHING: LABOR-SAVING MACHINERY
SUCH AS MADE BY UNION SPECIAL CO.

3. HOLECEK AND VEDRA NOTED THAT EMPHASIS ON HOUSING CONSTRUCTION IN CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PLAN WILL REQUIRE INCREASED INVESTMENT TO PRODUCE CARPETS, DRAPERIES, UPHOLSTERY AND RELATED HOME-FURNISHING ITEMS. THEY ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LABOR-SAVING EQUIPMENT PARTICULARLY DESIRABLE DUE TO MANPOWER SHORTAGE AND NEED TO BOOST LABOR PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY OF OUTPUT. BOTH STRESSED THAT TSS SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT INCLUDE SPINNING, WEAVING, FINISHING, KNITTING AND DYING MACHINERY THAT WOULD COMPETE WITH CZECHOSLOVAK OR OTHER CEMA PRODUCTION OR THAT IS NOT NOTABLY MORE ADVANCED THAN MACHINERY AVAILABLE FROM WEST EUROPE.

4. COMMENT: HOLECEK AND VEDRA CONFIRMED OUR EARLIER IMPRESSION (PARA 5, REF A) THAT TEXTILE MACHINERY IS ONE OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE OF THE TSS THEMES NOW BEING CONSIDERED FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
BYRNE

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